

藤島康介

KOSUKE FUJISHIMA

あゝ女神さま

44

Oh My Goddess!



Oh My Goddess!

ああ女神さま

44



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DARK HORSE MANGA™



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CHAPTER 276

Full Demon Urd





YEAH.
A PRIDE.



BUT NOW
IT
SUCKED
AWAY
ALL OUR
POWER...

I'M
ABOUT
TO
DESTROY
THAT
MACHINE.



WHAT
NOW...?





THAT'S
TOO
DANGER-
OUS!



...THERE'S
NO
REASON
NOT TO
TRY IT
OUT.



EVEN
IF YOU'VE
GOT THE
POWER,
YOU'VE
NEVER
USED IT!



YOU
COULD GO
OUT OF
CONTROL!
IT COULD
SWALLOW
YOU UP!









DAZZLING
DARK.

QUIET
SILENCE
FALLS.

THE
BLACK
FLAME.



THE
TIGHTLY
SEALED...

...AND...



SO
DEEP...

BY
OCEAN
FLOOR



...FLOATING
DEEP
WITHIN
ME.

THAT
OTHER
CURRENT...



...AND...









IT'S
ASTROLOGICAL...

...I FEEL
LIKE...
I COULD
BLAST
ANY-
THING...

IT'S
BOLERO
WITHIN
ME...







YOU
WASNT
WATED
THAT?

YOU...



Cry
Forth the
Curse,
Drink with
Pleasure,
Become
My Sacred
Song...

Who's
that Cry?
The Black
Lightning.
Who's
that Cry?
The Blue
Angels.







HOW
DARE
IT IS...



IT
DOES
EXACTLY
WHAT
YOU
WANT!



AWESOME!
DREAM
POWER!
AWESOME!





YOU
HAVE
TO
DESTROY
ME.

EVEN
IF...





CHAPTER 277

That Which Should Be There































WHAT
WAS
THE
ARJLET?



HOW
DID
BELLGANDY
BRING
BACK
THERE...?



...HAD
AN
ARJLET...

SHE...



I
GAVE
HER...

THE
RING...



LIKE A
CHAIN
ALL OF
FEELS
FOR
HER...

THAT'S
RIGHT...



BEL-DANDY'S
PERSERV

...HIE
WATCH!



!!



...AND
YOU'RE
STILL
MEASURING
IT!

JUST
LIKE
THE ONE
SHE
GAVE
YOU...



...MY
WIST...

IT'S
ON...



THE
POWER
TO
DYING
TIME.

YES.



uh
uh
uh



...WITH
HOPE
FOR
GOOD
FORTUNE.

A
KNOCK
PILLED...



OF
EXISTENCE.

SUCH
IS
THE
PROOF...





BECAUSE
THAT'S
AN
AMULET.

...INFUSED
WITH A
GODDAMN
POWER!









CHAPTER 278

Flowers Bloom in Demon World







HELL-
DADDY!!



AM
NOT!!
SEE...



DID
YOU
DO
THAT...!!

HOW...



PERHAPS
IT'S JUST
THE FACT
HE IS A
MORTAL.
IT'S BOUND
TO THROW
THINGS
OFF.





I
KNEW
YOU
WOULDN'T
IT

BUT
IT IS
OVER
NOW.



...SO
YOU
CAN
STILL
SPEAK.

WELL.
WELL.



























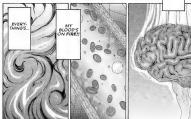
MOVIE...



THE



MY
BLOOD'S
MELT-
ING...



EVERY
THING...

MY
BLOOD'S
ON FIRE!

...FUCKING
ABOUT!





WHY?

THIS IS...

A JACK-
POT'S...

AND DANDY...

THE CAN'T...

FOR
FIVE...

CAN'T HOLD
ON...

WELL
AND...



...AND
SO TENSELY
THAT?



...FEEL
SO GOOD...

NOW
COULD
IT...



...WHAT
HAS
SHE
DONE...?!







CHAPTER 279

The CEO's Responsibility













COME
OUT!



THIS
IS THE
REAL
CONTRACT
...?!



...LEAVE
THE
BEST TO
ME.

REASON



BILL-
DANDY
SEEMS
DIFFERENT...

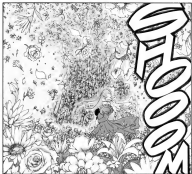
WHAT'S
HAPPEN-
ING...











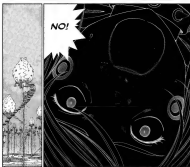
















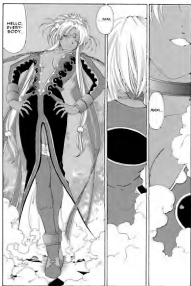
...I'M
BAAACK.



CHAPTER 280

Demonism out of Control







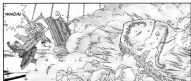
























CHAPTER 281

Sisterly Ties













HOW-
WHAT'S THAT?!



AND IF MY
CALCULATIONS
ARE RIGHT,
I'LL
WITHSTAND
EVEN AN
ANTIMATTER
BOMB
EXPLOSION.

IT'S A
PERFECT
DEFENSE
FIELD...



IT
SETS
UP A
BARRIER.

THIS
IS AN
ABSOL-
GATE.











EITHER
WHO
ELECTRO-
CUTES
US...

WELL,
THE WAY
I SEE IT,
WE'VE
NOT MANY
OPTIONS...



AH
HA
HA
HA!



OR
WE GET
BLOWN
TO BITS
BY THE
BOMB!



I'M
OVER-
FLOW-
ING!

NO
GOOD!



POWER
POWER

POWER
POWER



POWER
POWER
POWER

POWER
POWER
POWER

















WHAT?



...THE
LITTLE
ONE

4

BLOCKING
MY
MOUTH
DOWN...



...STAND
HER
BEHIND
IT

WHY
DOES
SHE...



...BELIEVE?

5

IN
WHAT
DOES
SHE...











CHAPTER 282

One for the Little One









AH
HAY!



LOVE
Y-THAT'S
THAT'S
THAT'S
THAT'S



AH
HAY!



THAT
CHIEF
STRONG



BUT
I'M
GOLDEN
YOU
PLAY

















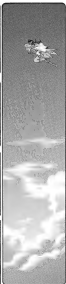
























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Welcome back, everyone! As you've just read, we're still in the thick of the osamer-shaking struggle at the center of Hell—but suddenly danger has appeared from an unexpected direction. As you'll see below, I accidentally got involved in the most fearful battle of all—the OS market-share war!

I read in vol. 42 how somehow you managed to instill a misconception in that one Japanese fan of the English edition of *Oh My Goddess!* in regard to choice of computer platforms among anime and manga fans.

To be told, while you say you use them at work, fans in general, as has been my experience, are Windows users, and Mac users are in the extreme minority. Around my general area of existence, if you are a Mac user and you show up at an event or general gathering of like-minded fans, you're going to be the only one and a suitable level of derision arises.

There really is no need to say you have to use a Mac, and no need to think that's the only way to go just because of one source or another, in order to be a proper anime fan. You will see more Windows users, period. Simply because Apple products are more expensive, and the

general mindset is that doesn't make them any better.

In fact, I know one letterer for a US publisher of English translated manga that uses Windows systems, and I even have spoken to a Japanese manga author who loves their Windows XP systems for their work. I do have squares, but for the sake of simplicity, I'll hold onto those cards for now. I would rather have their permission to drop names before actually doing so.

Still searching for the Ultimate Answer [was hoping vol. 42 would have it but not this time . . .]

Andrew Floyd
[via e-mail]

Hmm I went back and read what I wrote in vol. 42 about it, and I said that the Mac "was important from the very beginning to US anime and manga fans." I would agree with you that of course you don't have to use a Mac in order to be an anime and manga fan (in fact, what kind of operating system you use has nothing to do with being a fan, and anyway, there were anime and manga fan communities years before most people owned computers).

But I don't think that's what I was trying to imply, and, Yamaguchi-san, if you're reading this, Andrew is correct that most US fans (like most people in the world in general) use Windows. I was only speaking from my personal experience as a fan using Macs, in this case, to give encour-

against to our Japanese correspondent, as Yamaguchi-san mentioned that he discovered OS/2 My Goodness! through his interest in the Mac OS (so Apple is good for something BD). Why, I didn't even get into the fact GAINAX has been using Macs since 1988. ^_^

I'm actually not an "Apple zombie." I don't own an iPhone or iPod, and even my iPod I bought used (in fact, I bought it from the person who brought OVA01 to the United States, Torin Smith, which explains why it came with a Belkandly sticker on the back. :-)) I have almost always used Macs, but one reason for that is they tend to be well made and last for years (they are, as you say, also more expensive, so they would be a bad value if they didn't last). For the same reason, I don't run out every time a new model hits the stores. From Apple's standpoint, therefore, I am a terrible Mac user. ^_^

But just to be clear, I don't think it makes you a better or worse fan to use (or not use) a certain OS, and I apologize if I gave that impression. I've used Windows and AmigaOS, too. The reason I found myself around Macs almost from the beginning as a fan had more to do with my personal fan activities; in the 1980s, Apple was on the cutting edge in desktop-publishing applications, and I was really interested in using them to help make anime fanzines, magazines, and convention program books. And of course, many of the people who were interested in that as fans in the 1980s got jobs doing it in the 1990s, which is why *Viz* and *Dark Horse* are Mac based. Today, of course, there are a lot more options, and there are certainly disadvantages to using Apple, too. And somewhere a Linux user is scoffing at us both. ^_^

But enough about operating systems. Besides Jerry Miller is concerned about another kind of boot issue:

Hey Mr. Horse!

Just wanna say I'm really enjoying the new (original) format, especially now that the older issues are caught up and I can get the new ones twice as fast. ^_^ With the suspense of the current story arc, it still isn't fast enough for my taste, but after all, Fujihimoraaaaa's only human . . . XD

I absolutely LOVE the artwork of OMGI, and in addition to my love for the story, studying Fujihimoraaaaa's artwork greatly helps my own, since he uses so many different angles and dynamic poses that are really tough to draw. One of these days I definitely mean to send in some fan art! ^_^

For now, though, I just wanna point out an odd discrepancy I've been seeing . . . I'm sure I'm not the first person to notice it, but somebody's brought it up in the fan letters I've seen so far, so I thought I'd ask: since Hagel's first appearance in vol. 38, she seems to have two different pairs of boots that keep alternating; for instance, she's wearing one pair with a seam down the front when she's talking to Thyme in vol. 41 and another pair that has a dip at the top when she's talking to Mokkurballi in vol. 42, even though she's apparently been sitting in the same spot the whole time. Maybe demonesses share the all-too-common mortal female passion for shoes . . . ? Anyway, it's a trivial detail, but it's still interesting. Just curious. ^_^

Thanks and keep up the awesome work! I'm on pins and needles waiting for the showdown between Hild and Hagel!

Much love,
Jerry Miller
Santa Barbara, CA
(via e-mail)

I responded to Jenny by e-mail; in fact, she was the first person to point it out. I feel bad that I hadn't noticed myself, because a) I'm the editor ^_^ and b) just the other day I had noticed that Nobunaga's eye patch seems to shift which eye it covers in vol. 2 of *Grifters*. Could it be that I'm paying more attention to other people's manga? Admittedly that's a somewhat more obvious change, though. If someone switched my own shoes, I probably wouldn't notice. XD

I see Hagol went back to her original boots (with the dip down the top) at the end of vol. 43, and is wearing them in this volume. Another possibility, of course, is that the sealed boots are just a mistake or an oversight, either by Fujishima-sensei or his assistants; as you say, he's only human (but in a special way, like Keiichi ^_^). It seems that Fujishima likes elaborate costume and hair designs, so the more complex design [i.e., the one with the dip] would probably be the default. On the other hand, the goddesses have the power to conjure clothing out of thin air, so perhaps demons do as well, and Hagol has to do something to pass the time, waiting on her throne for Belllondy and co. to reach her . . .

Anyway, thank you very much for reading *Oh My Goddess!* Please do send in some fan art when you get the chance. And it's great to receive a letter from beautiful Santa Barbara (I suddenly had an image of Belllondy flying high above it, like the cover of vol. 19 . . .).

And now, a letter from a correspondent last heard from in vol. 41:

Willy hello again, guys. After seeing that you published my previous fan letter in volume 41 (my teacher, Mrs. Marcheno, actually made a photocopy of the pages you published my letter on and then posted the letter on our classroom door,

so yeah, that's pretty cool), I decided to write another one (also, when I think about it, an anthropomorphized Glöckchen Herz WOULD be a good Sniper). :3

Now, I've been watching season 1 of the anime on my 3DS via Netflix lately (since Netflix REALLY made season 1 available for instant streaming; I swear, some scenes, such as Urd's first appearance and the NT beauty contest sequence are just THAT much funnier in the anime), and I can't help but compare Keiichi and Belllondy's relationship to that of myself and Rosalina from *Super Mario Galaxy* (seriously, at least one of you guys has heard of it by now), at least in some aspects.

And lately I've also been thinking that if OMGI was ever adapted into a game, it'd probably be best handled by Telltale Games (come on, I can't be the only one who thinks an OMGI point-and-click adventure/dating sim game or something along those lines would be awesome) or Atlas (as evidenced by the *Persona* series. Atlas is pretty good with anime-styled games). Which studio do you think would better handle an OMGI game adaptation, Telltale Games or Atlas?

And speaking of OMGI and gaming, a few months ago, I suggested that Zen Studios (creators of the AMAZING Zen Pinball games) do an OMGI table for Zen Pinball at some point in the not-too-distant future (and even recommended the OMGI manga to them to help them with ideas for how they could make such a table). Would you guys also like to see them actually make an OMGI table for Zen Pinball?

And finally, since I'm on the subject, here's some fan art, courtesy of my friend Jared "TheGloriesBag" Serice of distant ART that mixes OMGI and Zen Pinball's "Excalibur" table (the version I'm including with this fan mail was dropped by me from the original version, which can be found

less at Jared Sutton's dA gallery: <http://thejaredbigg.deviantart.com/art/Zen-Crossovers-3037407311>.

As always, keep up the great work on CMGI, guys, and sorry if this fan letter was a bit long. ^^;

—Benjamin "gallatimon8" Schroeder

As I often point out, video games are my big point of weakness as an otaku, since I don't really play them and hence have very little knowledge of them. So I'm putting out Benjamin's questions more for everybody else to respond to. ^^ I should explain that I think video games are cool; it's just that I've kind of neglected active play since the first Reagan administration. BD: As you may know, Dark Horse is publishing one of our hottest books ever, *The Legend of Zelda: Hyrule Historia*; we made a promotional book-mark for it in the shape of Link's sword, and it just goes to show how famous *Zelda* is that even I, who have never played it, still recognized what it was.

But Zen Pinball is a great concept, and I personally would love to see CMGI and other anime/manga-themed versions of it. I could easily see how the magical graphics Fujishiro uses in the story (for example, the appearance of the gate they travel through to reach Hell) could be adapted to a pinball game. Actually, a few years ago, Dark Horse published a work called *Alkira Club*, an art book based on the famous manga by Katsuhisa Otomo. It contained a lot of the promotional artwork done for the series, and one page had a photograph of an *Alkira* pinball machine. Only one was made, apparently (it was created to serve as the back cover of *Book Four* of the Japanese edition of the manga).

This was, of course, a real pinball machine, something that has almost died

out. In Portland, we're fortunate to have the retro arcade Ground Kontrol (actually, our Christmas party was held there ^^_^^) which not only has a lot of video game arcade machines from decades past, it also has about a dozen pinball machines. It used to be common to make pinball machines based around movies and TV shows, and Ground Kontrol has some, including the 1990 *Doctor Who* machine (this is back when there were only seven Doctors), the 1991 *Terminator 2* machine, and the 1993 *Star Trek: The Next Generation* machine. And in fact, they still make a few; Ground Kontrol also has the pinball machines for *Lord of the Rings* and *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

But as you may know, actual, mechanical game machines based on anime and manga are still a big deal in Japan—not pinball, but pachinko machines, which commonly use TV shows and movies as licensed themes, often featuring special footage (on an LCD screen) made just for the game. For example, there have been five Neon Genesis Evangelion pachinko games in Japan, the most recent of which sold 237,000 units! Pachinko is such big business that it can help revive an old series, or pay for a remake. I don't think anyone has made an *Oh My Goddess!* pachinko game yet; maybe they're afraid Und will rig it with a Laplacean Demon's Stone. ^^_^^

See you all again in volume 45 (in December, because we've just about caught up with the Japanese series) and as always, we look forward to your letters!

—CGH





EXCALIBUR



ZEN PUBLISH

STOP! This is the back of the book!

This manga collection is translated into English, but arranged in right-to-left reading format to maintain the artwork's visual orientation as originally drawn and published in Japan. If you've never read comics this way before, take a look at the diagram below to give yourself an idea of how to go about it. Basically, you'll be starting in the upper right-hand corner, and will read each word balloon and panel moving right to left. It may take a little getting used to, but you should get the hang of it very quickly. Have fun! If this is the millionth manga you've read this way, never mind. ^_^



Oh My Goddess!

ああ女神さま

44

HS URD SUMMONS HER

demonic potential to defeat the infernal machine menacing her sister. Skuld stands by with a holdout bomb should things go out of control . . . but they may already be out of control, as Belldandy is forced to play her own last, terrible, and most unexpected card . . . offering Keiichi the chance to cancel their contract!

Winner of the thirty-third Kodansha Manga Award, *Oh My Goddess!* is the longest-running manga title in English!



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